ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

A color image forming method of a color image forming apparatus that is connected to a host computer and which receives image forming data generated in the host computer. The color image forming apparatus includes: generating first image data image-processed into a format suitable for use in a color image forming engine by a first image processor disposed within the color image forming apparatus; generating second image data image-processed into a format suitable for use in the color image forming engine by a second image processor disposed outside the color image forming apparatus; and receiving at least one of the first and second image data and selectively outputting the at least one of the first and second image data to the color image forming engine via an image data controller disposed within the color image forming apparatus.